

SLA

SLACKNESS. *n. f.* [from *slack*.]

1. Looseness; not tightness.

2. Negligence; inattention; remissness.

It concerneth the duty of the church by law to provide, that the looseness and *slackness* of men may not cause the commandments of God to be unexecuted.

These thy offices,

So rarely kind, are as interpreters

Of my behind-hand *slackness*.From man's effeminate *slackness* it begins,

Who should better hold his place

By wisdom, and superior gifts receiv'd. *Milton's Par. Lost.*

3. Want of tendency.

When they have no disposition to shoot out above their lips, there is a *slackness* to heal, and a cure is very difficultly effected.

4. Weakness; not force; not intenceness.

Through the *slackness* of motion, or long banishment from the air, it might gather some aptness to putrefy.SLAG. *n. f.* The dross or recrement of metal.

Not only the calces but the glazings of metal may be of differing colours from the natural colour of the metal, as I have observed about the glass or slag of copper.

SLAINE. *n. f.* A weaver's reed.SLAIN. The participle passive of *slay*.

The slain of the Lord shall be many.

Fought all his battles o'er again;

And thrice he routed all his foes, and thrice he slew the slain.

To SLAKE. *v. a.* [from *slack*, *Skinner*; from *slack*, *Islandick*;

1. To quench; to extinguish.

He did always strive

Himself with selves to health for to restore,

And slake the heavenly fire that rag'd evermore. *Fa. Queen.*

If I digg'd up thy forefathers graves,

And hung their rotten coffins up in chains,

It could not slake mine ire, nor ease my heart. *Shakep. H.VI.*His spirits, the sparks of life, and chills his heart. *Crashaw.*

A lambent flame arose, which gently spread

Around his brows, and on his temples fed:

Amaz'd, with running water we prepare

To quench the sacred fire, and slake his hair. *Dryden.*

The fragrant fruit from bending branches slake,

And with the crystal stream their thirst at pleasure slake.

Coarse are his meals, the fortune of the chase;

Amidst the running stream he slakes his thirst. *Addis. Cats.*2. It is used of lime, so that it is uncertain whether the original notion of *To slack* or *slake* lime be to powder or quench it.

That which he saw happened to be fresh lime, and gathered before any rain had fallen to slake it.

To SLAKE. *v. n.* [This is apparently from *slack*.] To grow less tense; to be relaxed.

If the the body's nature did partake,

Her strength would with the body's strength decay;

But when the body's strongest finewest slake,

Then is the soul most active, quick, and gay. *Davies.*To SLAM. *v. a.* [from *slama*, *Islandick*; *schlagen*, *Dutch*.] To slaughter; to crush. A word not used but in low conversation.To SLANDER. *v. a.* [from *esclauderie*, *French*; *scandalum*, *Latin*.] To censure falsely; to belie.

Slander Valentine

With falsehood, cowardice, and poor descent. *Shakep. Lear.*He hath slandered thy servant unto the king. *2 Sa. xix. 27.*

Give me leave to speak as earnestly in truly commending it, as you have done in untruly and unkindly defacing and slander- ing it.

Thou do'st with lies the throne invade,

By practice harden'd in thy slanderous trade;

Obtending heav'n for what'er ills befall,

And putt'ring under specious names thy gall. *Dryden.*

Of all her dears she never slander'd one,

But cares not if a thousand are undone. *Dryden.*SLANDER. *n. f.* [from the verb.]

1. False invective.

When slanders do not live in tongues;

When cut-purses come not to throngs.

Since that, we hear he is in arms,

We think not so;

Yet charge the consul with our harms,

That let him go:

So in our censure of the state

We still do wander,

And make the careful magistrate

The mark of slander. *Ben. Johnson's Catiline.*

2. Disgrace; reproach.

Thou slander of thy heavy mother's womb!

Thou loathed issue of thy father's loins. *Shakep. R. III.*

3. Disreputation; ill name.

You shall not find me, daughter,

After the slander of most step-mothers,

Ill-ey'd unto you. *Shakep. Lear.*SLANDERER. *n. f.* [from *slander*.] One who belies another;

one who lays false imputations on another.

In your servants suffer any offence against yourself rather

than against God: endure not that they should be railers or

slanders, tell-tales or sowers of dissension.

Thou shalt answer for this, thou slanderer. *Taylor.*SLANDEROUS. *adj.* [from *slander*.]

1. Uttering reproachful falsehoods.

What king so strong

Can tie the gall up in the slanderous tongue?

To me belongs. *Shakep. Lear.*

The care to shun the blast of slanderous tongues:

Let malice, prone the virtuous to defame,

Thus with vile censure taint my spotless name. *Pope.*

2. Containing reproachful falsehoods; calumnious.

I was never able till now to choke the mouth of such de-

tractors, with the certain knowledge of their slanderous un-

truths. *Spenser on Ireland.*

We lay these honours on this man,

To ease ourselves of divers slanderous loads. *Shak. Jul. Cas.*

As by flattery a man opens his bosom to his mortal enemy,

so by detraction and a slanderous misreport he shuts the same to his best friends.

SLANDEROUSLY. *adv.* [from *slandereus*.] Calumniously; with

false reproach.

I may the better satisfy them who object these doubts, and

slandereously bark at the courtes which are held against that trait-

terous earl and his adherents. *Spenser on Ireland.*

They did slanderously object,

How that they durst not hazard to present

In person their defences. *Daniel's Civil War.*SLANG. The preterite of *sling*.David sang a stone, and smote the Philistine. *1 Sa. xvii.*SLANK. *n. f.* An herb.SLANT. *adj.* [from *slangbe*, a serpent, *Dutch*. *Skinner*.]SLANTING. *adj.* Oblique; not direct; not perpendicular.

Late the clouds

Juffling, or push'd with winds, rude in their shock,

Tine the slant lightning; whose thwart flame driv'n down,

Kindles the gummy bark of fir and pine. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

The sun round the globe describes th' Equator line,

By which wife means he can the whole survey

With a direct or with a slanting ray;

In the succession of a night and day. *Blackmore.*SLANTLY. *adv.* [from *slant*.] Obliquely; not perpendi-SLANTWISE. *adv.* cularly; slope.

Some maketh a hollownest half a foot deep,

With fower fets in it, set slantwise asleep. *Yasser's Husband.*SLAP. *n. f.* [from *schlap*, *German*.] A blow. Properly with the

hand open, or with something rather broad than sharp.

The laugh, the slap, the jocular curse go round. *Thomson.*SLAP. *adv.* [from the noun.] With a sudden and violent blow.

Peg's servants complained; and if they offered to come into

the warehouse, then straight went the yard slap over their

noddle. *Arbuthnot's History of John Bull.*To SLAP. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To strike with a slap.

Dick, who thus long had passive fat,

Here stroak'd his chin, and cock'd his hat;

Then slapp'd his hand upon the board,

And thus the youth put in his word. *Prior.*SLAPDASH. *interj.* [from *slap* and *dash*.] All at once: as any

thing broad falls with a slap into the water, and dashes it about.

A low word.

And yet, slapdash, is all again

In ev'ry finew, nerve, and vein. *Prior.*To SLASH. *v. a.* [from *slasa*, to strike, *Islandick*.]

1. To cut; to cut with long cuts.

2. To lash. *Slash* is improper.

Daniel, a sprightly swain, that us'd to slash

The vigorous steeds that drew his lord's calash,

To Peggy's side inclin'd. *King.*To SLASH. *v. n.* To strike at random with a sword; to lay

about him.

The knights with their bright burning blades

Broke their rude troops, and orders did confound,

Hewing and slashing at their idle shades. *Fairy Queen.*

Not that I'd lop the beauties from his book,

Like slashing Bentley with his desperate hook. *Pope.*SLASH. *n. f.* [from the verb.]

1. Cut; wound.

Some few received some cuts and slashes that had drawn

blood. *Clovenodon.*

2. A cut in cloth.

What! this a sleeve?

Here's snip and nip, and cut, and slash and slash,

Like to a censor in a barber's shop. *Shakep. Lear.*

Distinguishing

SLA

SLA

Distinguishing'd slashes deck the great,

As each excels in birth or state:

His oylet-holes are more and ampler;

The king's own body was a fampler. *Prior.*SLATCH. *n. f.* [A sea term.] The middle part of a rope orcable that hangs down loose. *Hailey.*SLATE. *n. f.* [from *slit*: *slate* is in some counties a crack; orfrom *slate*, a tile, *French*.] A grey fissile stone, easily

broken into thin plates, which are used to cover houses, or to

write upon.

A square cannot be so truly drawn upon a slate as it is con-

ceived in the mind. *Grew's Cosmol.*

A small piece of a flat slate the ants laid over the hole of

their nest, when they forelaw it would rain. *Addison's Sp. B.*To SLATE. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To cover the roof; to tile.

Sonnets and elegies to Chloris,

Would raise a house about two stories; *Swift.*

A lyrick ode would slate.

SLATER. *n. f.* [from *slate*.] One who covers with slates or

tiles.

SLATERN. *n. f.* [from *slatti*, *Swedish*.] A woman negligent;

not elegant or nice.

Without the raising of which sum,

You dare not be so troublesome

To pinch the slatterns black and blue,

For leaving you their work to do. *Hudibras.*

We may always observe, that a gossip in politics is a flat-

tern in her family. *Addison's Freeholder.*

The fallow skin is for the swarthy put,

And low can make a slattern of a slut. *Dryden.*

Beneath the lamp her tawdry ribbons glare,

The new-found mantleau and the slattern air. *Gay.*SLATY. *adj.* [from *slate*.] Having the nature of slate.

All the stone that is slaty, with a texture long, and parallel

to the line of the stratum, will split only lengthways, or hori-

zontally; and, if placed in any other position, 'tis apt to give

way, start, and burst, when any considerable weight is laid

upon it. *Woodward on Fossils.*SLAVE. *n. f.* [from *selave*, *French*.] It is said to have its originalfrom the *Slavi*, or *Slavonians*, subdued and sold by the *Ve-*

netians.] One mancipiated to a master; not a freeman; a

dependent.

The banish'd Kent, who in disguise

Follow'd his enemy king, and did him service

Improper for a slave. *Shakep. King Lear.*

Thou elvish markt, abortive, rooting hog!

Thou that wast seal'd in thy nativity

The slave of nature, and the son of hell. *Shakep. R. III.*

Of guests he makes them slaves

Inhospitably. *Milton.*

Slaves to our passions we become, and then

It grows impossible to govern men. *Waller.*

The condition of servants was different from what it is

now, they being generally slaves, and such as were bought and

sold for money. *South.*

Perspective a painter must not want; yet without subjecting

ourselves to wholly to it, as to become slaves of it. *Dryden.*

To-morrow, should we thus express our friendship,

Each might receive a slave into his arms:

This fun perhaps, this morning sun's the last;

That e'er shall rise on Roman liberty. *Addison's Cato.*To SLAVE. *v. n.* [from the noun.] To drudge; to toil; to

toil.

Had women been the makers of our laws,

The men should slave at cards from morn to night. *Swift.*SLAVER. *n. f.* [from *salvare*, *Latin*; *slava*, *Islandick*.] Spittle

running from the mouth; drivel.

Mathiolus hath a passage, that a toad communicates its

venom not only by urine, but by the humidity and *slaver* of itsmouth, which will not consist with truth. *Brown.*

Of all mad creatures, if the leam'd are right,

It is the *slaver* kills, and not the bite. *Pope.*To SLAVER. *v. n.* [from the noun.]

1. To be smeared with spittle.

Should I

Slaver with lips, as common as the flairs

That mount the capitol; join grips with hands

Made hard with hourly falsehood as with labour. *Shakep.*

2. To emit spittle.

Miso came with scowling eyes to deliver a *slaver*ing good-morrow to the two ladies. *Shakep.*Why must he pucker, spawl, and *slaver* it,In vain, against the people's fav'rite? *Swift.*To SLAVER. *v. a.* To smear with drivel.

Twitch'd by the slave he mouths it more and more,

'Till with white froth his gown is *slaver'd* o'er. *Dryden.*SLAVERER. *n. f.* [from *slavbaerd*, *Dutch*; from *slaver*.] One who

cannot hold his spittle; a driveller; an idiot.

SLAVERY. *n. f.* [from *slave*.] Servitude; the condition of a

slave; the offices of a slave.

If my dissentings were out of error, weakness, or obliqui-

tude in me, yet no man can think it other than the badge and

SLE

method of slavery, by savage rudeness and importunate ob-

trusions of violence to have the milt of his error dispelled.

SLAUGHTER. *n. f.* [from *slaught*, *Saxon*, from *slagan*, *slagan*;

to strike or kill.] Massacre; destruction by the sword.

Sinful Macduff,

They were all struck for thee!

Not for their own demerits, but for mine,

Fell slaughter on their souls. *Shakep. Macbeth.*On each hand slaughter and gigantic deeds. *Milton.*

The pair you see,

Now friends below, in close embraces join;

But when they leave the shady realms of night,

With mortal heat each other shall pursue:

What wars, what wounds, what slaughter shall ensue? *Dryd.*To SLAUGHTER. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To massacre; to

slay; to kill with the sword.

Your cattle is surpriz'd, your wife and babes

Savagely slaughter'd. *Shakep. Macbeth.*